(c) the annual rate of increase expected to be during the next decade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Registers of employment exchanges in the country was of the order of 4 crore and 23 lakh as on September, 2001. The annual average rates of increase in the number of job-seekers during 1981—1990 and 1991—2000 were around 8% and 1.8% respectively. The trend observed for 1991—2000 is likely to continue.

Unemployment problem in North-Eastern States

2689. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to remove the problem of unemployment in the country particularly in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if, so the details thereof and if not, the specific reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the programmes being run by Government to increase employment opportunities in Nagaland ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The planning for employment generation is a part of the Five Year Plans. The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A special group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth five year plan.

The problem of unemployment in the North East Region has been drawing the attention of the Government for quite some time. As a part of the Socio Economic Development Package for the North East Region and Sikkim, an amount of Rs. 10,271 Crore has been earmarked for various initiatives for social and economic development, including *inter-alia* setting up of new ITIs and strengthening of existing ITIs for further development of skills among the unemployed youth, promotion of information technology and its application. These will help the unemployed youth to access wage-employment and self-employment opportunities inside and outside the North Eastern States including Nagaland.